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A MESSAGE FROM STATE'S ATTORNEY EDWARD V. HANRAHAN
REGARDING RECENT RAID OF APARTMENT OCCUPIED
BY BLACK PANTHER PARTY MEMBERS

Last week, December 4, a 14-member team of our State's Attorney's Police, including five black police officers, sought to search an apartment occupied by members of the Black Panther Party. In the process, our police officers were fired upon by some or all of the nine occupants of the apartment. In an ensuing exchange of gun fire, two of the occupants were killed and one of our police officers was shot. The seven other occupants were arrested and charged with attempt murder and aggravated battery. We are preparing to present this matter to the Grand Jury.

Immediately after the occurrence, we reviewed all its details with the assigned officers. We then issued a statement of the facts.

We were then convinced and are still convinced that our officers used good judgment, considerable restraint and professional discipline.

At this time, legal restrictions against pre-trial publicity prevent our office from fully answering false charges made by others in connection with the incident. However, some basic facts which

ADD 1:

2. The search warrant was based upon reliable information that the apartment was being utilized as a depot for illegal arms.

3. Twelve rifles and shotguns (including one sawed-off shotgun and one shotgun stolen from the Chicago Police Department); 7 pistols (including one .45 calibre automatic); and 1, 154 rounds of rifle, shotgun and pistol ammunition were found on the premises.

4. Our officers knocked on the front door several times and announced their office and purpose several times before seeking entry.

5. No attempt was made by any of our police officers to use any weapon until after the occupants resisted our officers' legal entry and fired upon them.

6. Our officers ceased firing three times, each time urging the occupants to do likewise. Each time one of the nine occupants replied, "Shoot it out."

7. After the shooting ceased and seven occupants were arrested, our officers followed standard investigative techniques for the gathering and preserving of evidence.

Inflammatory statements and false charges against our office have been made by spokesmen for the Black Panther Party and others. Unfortunately, such remarks have been given widespread publicity by many newspapers and radio and television stations -- despite the fact that the speakers had no reliable knowledge about the occurrence.

Because of the constitutional rights of those occupants against